

Advanced Anti-Tank Weapon System - Heavy (AAWS-H)

Description

The AAWS-H is an upgrade to the Tube-Launched Optically-Tracked, Wire-Guided (TOW) 2 anti-tank weapon system in the ground mount and HMMWV mount version. AAWS-H consists of a new missile launcher and a SLEP program for the TOW 2B plus the addition of a Counter Active Protection System (CAPS).

The AAWS-H missile launcher will be the Improved Target Acquisition System (ITAS). ITAS uses an integrated day/night sight that employs a second generation Forward Looking Infrared Thermal Imager that enables gunners to acquire targets at ranges at least twice that of the current TOW system. ITAS has an eye-safe Laser Range Finder, automatic boresighting, Aided Target Tracker, and embedded training capability. Additionally, it has the capability to fire the missiles in the USMC TOW stockpile and potential for upgrade to launch fire and forget missiles.

In order to ensure the viability of our TOW stockpile, the TOW 2B missiles will undergo SLEP to guarantee an additional 10 years of shelf life and will have a CAPS capability installed to defeat active protection systems on threat armored vehicles.

Operational Impact

The AAWS-H System will be organic and provide long range, lethal anti-armor fire to the anti-armor sections in the infantry and tank battalions. In its secondary role, AAWS-H will be employed against vehicles and field fortifications of any type. The ITAS will provide the advantage of increased recognition and detection range, particularly in periods of limited visibility.

Program Status

The US Army is currently fielding ITAS. USMC production is expected to begin in FY04 with Initial Operational Capability in FY06. The TOW 2B SLEP program is also expected to begin production in FY04

Procurement Profile:	FY02	FY03
Quantity:	0	0

Developer/Manufacturer	Raytheon Systems, McKinney, TX and Tucson, AZ
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